



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D C 20250

JUN 20 2007

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor
State of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

This is in response to your letter of May 15, 2007, requesting a disaster designation for six Texas counties due to losses caused by excessive rain, flash flooding, flooding, hail, high winds, lightning, and tornadoes that occurred from March 29, 2007, through March 30, 2007. Those counties are:

Coryell
Ellis

Hill
Lampasas

McLennan
Navarro

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reviewed the Damage Assessment Reports for all six counties along with the additional information submitted by the State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency (FSA). Based on this review, USDA has determined that Coryell, Ellis, Lampasas, and Navarro Counties sustained sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating Coryell, Ellis, Lampasas, and Navarro Counties, Texas, as primary natural disaster areas.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your State are named as contiguous disaster counties. Those counties are:

Bell
Bosque
Burnet
Dallas
Freestone

Hamilton
Henderson
Hill
Johnson
Kaufman

Limestone
McLennan
Mills
San Saba
Tarrant

We were unable to confirm that sufficient production losses occurred in Hill and McLennan Counties, Texas. None of those counties sustained a 30-percent or greater production loss in a single enterprise due to the natural disaster. In addition, there were no farmers in those counties who sustained qualifying losses due to the natural disaster. Therefore, I am unable to approve your request for the designation of Hill and McLennan Counties as primary natural disaster areas.

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However, Hill and McLennan Counties will be eligible for FSA emergency loan assistance since they are named as contiguous counties for this disaster

This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. FSA will consider each application on its own merit by taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Johanns". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Johanns" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Johanns
Secretary